

*A1*

On page 12 lines 17-18, please delete the words "ascertains, responsive to this access priority value, when the channel is available by initially testing for channel busy at step (323)" and replace them with the words --ascertains a random time, responsive to the access priority value, and tests whether the channel is available when the random time has expired at step 323--

On page 12 line 20, please delete the words "introduces a random delay or".

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 in the following manner:

*A2*

1. (once amended) In a data communication system including infrastructure arranged to communicate with a plurality of terminals over a channel, a method of adaptable channel access practiced at a terminal [including] comprising the steps of:  
determining an access priority value ;  
ascertaining a random time, responsive to said access priority value;  
testing whether said [when the] channel is available;  
if said channel is not available, waiting for said random time to expire and  
repeating said step of testing; and  
executing, responsive to said step of [ascertaining] testing, a channel access attempt when said channel is available.

*E*

Please amend claim 6 in the following manner:

*A3*

6. (once amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said step of receiving a message further provides said system management parameter corresponding to a channel priority [level] threshold.